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wider intellectual horizon appear. The chief topics of these songs are the relations of the sexes, of the peasants, and the upper and learned classes, officials, etc. Interesting is "Das Dorfschulmeisterlein" (p. 97), — he is the most tormented of all men, and the last to be allowed to enter heaven. "Adam und Eva" (p. 100) gives a folk-appreciation of the apple-eating in Eden. Although in many of these songs folk-wit and folk-thought are more notable than good poetry, some of them possess the æsthetic touch as well. Both as a source of material for the philologist and as a mine for the psychologist the volumes of folk-song, etc., to be published in this series are to be heartily welcomed.

In the second volume Dr. A. Kopp gathers together from fugitive sheets, etc., the various known "Brennenberg songs," and in his introduction (pp. 1-12) treats the study of Ritter Brennenberg in connection with the "heart legend" of Uhland's "Castellan of Coucy," and other variants of the cannibalistic episode studied by Gaston de Paris, H. Patzig, etc. This tale, the essence of which lies in a man making his wife eat the heart of her lover," — in some cases the jealous husband kills the lover himself, — finds cognates even in India. The poems known as "Bremberger" and treating of the legend of the heart of the dead singer, recall Reinmar von Brennenberg, and are fashioned after his peculiar strophe. Both in form and contents the Bremberger material was widespread in the folk-song of the sixteenth century. The theme seems to have almost served as a "practice topic" in the *Meistersänger* schools. The *Sage* here considered has now the valuable discussion of Gaston Paris ("Romania," 1879, 1883), Hermann Patzig (1891), and Kopp.
A. F. C.

THE ARTHUR OF THE ENGLISH POETS. By HOWARD MAYNADIER. Boston: 1907. \$1.50.

A mineralogist may pour from a pocket-vial a few drops of acid now on this fragment of rock and now on that, and by noting carefully the different kinds of reaction that ensue, and the way in which the different layers of material behave, may learn much about the history of the earth's crust. Dr. Maynadier uses the great legend of King Arthur much as our fancied mineralogist might use his vial of powerful acid. He estimates each period of English literature by the way in which it behaves toward his favorite legend. The method is strictly defensible. The Arthurian legends are the very essence of romance. It is hard to find pure examples of romance in the strict sense of the word outside of the fairy circle of King Arthur. The attitude which an age takes toward the Arthurian legend is therefore a very delicate test of its attitude towards romance. The romantic ages make much of the Round Table cycle; the formal ages either neglect it completely or turn it into an object for satire. In the second half of this book, by a skilful use of this method of comparison, Dr. Maynadier is able to sketch succinctly the main currents of feeling in English literature from the twelfth century down, without seeming to do anything except to talk about the development of the Arthurian story. This mode of treatment gives the book, at least in appearance, much breadth of outlook, and helps to make it readable.

Readable this little manual of the Arthurian legends certainly is. If the second half of the book owes its readableness to its constant attention to the general literary relations of the legend, the first owes its interest in great part

to the author's knowledge of Arthurian localities. Dr. Maynadier has, we believe, visited most of the places in Great Britain that tradition has associated with King Arthur. He is thus able to give the reader here and there a touch of personal exploration that adds vividness to the book: e. g. (Tarn Wadling, the scene of several Arthur romances) "is to-day only a sedgy swamp where cattle feed. About it are green fields with the neat little village of High Hesket, on an eminence above it, less than half a mile away. Farther off in all directions are hills. Only some dark bristling pines on the edge of the tarn remain to suggest wildness." (This last sentence, by the way, does scant justice to a thick grove of pines that extends for nearly half a mile along the clearly defined margin of the former tarn.)

The first half of the book is a clear résumé "of the frequently conflicting opinions on the Round Table stories which students of mediæval literature have held." As such a résumé, the book will be of great convenience to students and readers; and in one or two places, as notably on pages 48 and 121, where it discusses Irish influence on mediæval literature, it will speak with the authority of one who has himself investigated the question in detail.

The résumé is tolerably complete; but one is rather surprised to find that Dr. Maynadier does not seem to have used Gaston Paris's last article in the "*Journal des Savants*" (see p. 69), although he refers to this article on p. 154, footnote, nor does he refer to recent monographs by Paton, Fletcher, and Kittredge.

Dr. Maynadier is quite right in showing the importance of the English romances in keeping the legend of Arthur alive (p. 197) and in emphasizing the fact that knights and ladies of the middle ages were gentle folk, and were not lacking in personal cleanness and fine feeling (p. 252), though not many will agree with him that Geoffrey of Monmouth lacked style (p. 38). Nor does he seem altogether to escape the ordinary attitude of indifference toward the middle ages, when he calls English literature from Layamon to the Renaissance "a dreary waste" (p. 201).

The author is at his best in the informal similes with which he enlivens his pages, and makes them appeal even to the tyro in these studies: e. g. p. 12, where he compares the Romans in Britain to the English in India; p. 34, where he draws a parallel between Arthur, Franklin, and Lincoln; p. 45, where he compares Brittany and its relation to Welsh literature, to America and its relation to English literature; pp. 77, 273, where he draws a parallel between Chrétien de Troies and Sir Walter Scott.

The second half of this manual "indicates the general tendencies of Arthurian literature in the English world from its first appearance to the present," and as a sketch is interesting and well done. Students and readers will be glad to have this material in convenient form, and will derive assistance from Dr. Maynadier's comments.

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